REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-8 are rejected.

Claims 1-6 are amended. New claim 9 is added. Thus, claims 1-9 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this Amendment.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §102 AND §103

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Olson (6,047,319). Olson is newly cited, and, thus, newly relied upon.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olson in view of "Official Notice" that a bar code reader is well known and combining the bar code reader as an I/O device to Olson would be obvious.

OLSON

Olson discloses a method in allowing a client (or host computer) to access port resources on a server (see, column 4, lines 27 to 41, which is relied upon by the Examiner, as well as column 3, line 53 to column 4, 26 and column 4, lines 42-47). The Examiner also relies on Olson, column 12, lines 25-35, and column 14, lines 35-49, which discloses the client side (or host computer) operation.

Essentially the Examiner is asserting that although Olson discloses a client accessing server port resources, which differs from the present claimed invention's server controlling a client I/O device, the terms "client" and "server," are implementation labels. Therefore, the Examiner appears to allege that Olson's client 18 as shown in FIG. 2 (device driver 200 as shown in FIG. 8), can correspond to the server of the present claimed invention, and Olson's server 20, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 8, can correspond to the client of the claimed present invention.

In other words, for example, the Examiner is alleging that Olson's device driver 200 (FIG. 8), which implements the API of the host operating system by emulating a driver for a set of locally connected serial ports 204, can be similar to the claimed present invention's O-POS 6, device driver 17 and virtual I/O port 18, in server 1, as shown in FIG. 1 of the present Application.

However, the claimed present invention's client-server implementation still differs from Olson, because in contrast to Olson, the claimed present invention provides a server-side input-output control software 6 and device driver 17 that corresponds to a client-side device handler 26 to control a client-side I/O device 4. In other words, Olson's device driver 200, including the control device 202, is provided for establishing a communication connection to a server-side I/O port 40, but not to control any I/O devices connected to the server-side I/O port 40.

The entire Olson disclosure is silent on providing the present claimed invention's server-side control of a client-side ***I/O device*** as recited in independent claims 1, 3 and 4. See, for example, column 14, line 50 to column 15, line 11, which discloses, "The connection made is a bytestream connection, allowing the driver 200 to reliably send and receive sequenced data to the server 20." Further, in Olson, the command packets discussed in column 17, lines 41-52, relate to communication state variables, and not for controlling an I/O device connected to an I/O port. More particularly, Olson's port ***resources*** differ from an ***I/O device, such as a bar code reader,*** and thus, differ from the claimed present invention's, "a server, comprising: software to generate operating instructions for ... ***I/O device***" (e.g., claim 1).

The claimed present invention provides a benefit of allowing ***locating in a server***, a client input/output control software, such as the O-POS 6, and a client device driver, such as the device driver 17, thereby reducing memory and processing requirements of a client (page 13, line 7 to page 15, line 1; and FIGS. 1-3, of the present Application.

Accordingly, Olson cannot anticipate the present claimed invention.

To advance prosecution to place the application in condition for allowance, the independent claims 1, 3 and 4, using claim 1 as an example, are amended to better emphasize the patentably distinguishing features of the present claimed invention as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client/server system comprising:

a server, comprising:

software to generate ***operating instructions for ~~an~~ a client-side I/O device***;

a device driver to generate ***a control signal for the client-side I/O device*** based on the operating instructions; and

a virtual I/O port ***to transmit the control signal for the client-side I/O device and to receive an I/O event from the client-side I/O device***; and

a client in communication with the ***client-side I/O device***, comprising:

a device handler to receive the control signal from the virtual I/O port in the server, ***to control the client-side I/O device ~~that is coupled with the client~~ based on the control signal received from the virtual I/O port in the server, and to transmit the I/O event received from the client-side I/O device to the virtual I/O port in the server***.

Olson fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's, ***"server"*** to ***"control the client-side I/O device ~~that is coupled with the client~~ based on the control signal received from the virtual I/O port in the server, and to transmit the I/O event received from the client-side I/O device to the virtual I/O port in the server."*** Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, in FIGS. 1 and 3 of the present Application.

Further, In contrast to Olson, new independent claim 9, provides:

> 9. (NEW) A client/server system comprising:
>
> a client comprising:
>
> at least one I/O device, and
>
> a programmed computer processor handling data communication, including an I/O event from the at least one I/O device, via an I/O port connected to the at least one I/O device; and
>
> a server communicably connectable with the client and comprising:
>
> a programmed computer processor handling data communication, including ***directly controlling the at least one I/O device of the client and handling the I/O event from the at least one I/O device of the client, via a virtual I/O port in the server to the at least one I/O device of the client.***

Support for the claim amendments and the new claim 9 can be found, for example, In FIGS. 1, 2, 3, and pages 13-14, of the present Application. New independent claim 9 provides an alternative recitation of the claimed present invention and is patentably distinguishing over Olson for the same rationale discussed above by providing a ***"server"*** that is ***"directly controlling the at least one I/O device of the client and handling the I/O event from the at least one I/O device of the client,"*** through ***"a virtual I/O port in the server to the at least one I/O device of the client."***

Olson fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention as recited in new independent claim 9.

CONCLUSION

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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